



Solving rational expectations models
with first order perturbation:
what Dynare does

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DSGE Model Framework

$$E \left[f_{\theta} (y_{t-1}, y_t, y_{t+1}, u_t | \Omega_t) \right] = 0$$
$$u_s \sim WN(0, \Sigma_u)$$

$t, s \in \mathbb{T}$: discrete time set, typically \mathbb{N} or \mathbb{Z}

y_t : n endogenous variables (declared in *var* block)

u_t : n_u exogenous variables (declared in *varexo* block)

Σ_u : covariance matrix of invariant distribution of exogenous variables (declared in *shocks* block)

θ : n_{θ} model parameters (declared in *parameters* block)

f : n model equations (declared in *model* block)

f_{θ} is a continuous non-linear function indexed by a vector of parameters θ

$$E \left[f_{\theta} (y_{t-1}, y_t, y_{t+1}, u_t | \Omega_t) \right] = 0$$

$$u_s \sim WN(0, \Sigma_u)$$

Rational Expectations

- ▶ information set includes model equations f , value of parameters θ , value of current state y_{t-1} , value of current exogenous variables u_t , invariant distribution (but not values!) of future exogenous variables u_{t+s}
- ▶ Ω_t : information set (*filtration*, i.e. $\Omega_t \subseteq \Omega_{t+s} \forall s \geq 0$)
- ▶ $\Omega_t = \{f, \theta, y_{t-1}, u_t, u_{t+s} \sim N(0, \Sigma)\}$ for all $t \in \mathbb{T}, s > 0$
- ▶ $E[\cdot | \Omega_t]$: conditional expectation operator, typically we use shorthand E_t

$$E \left[f_{\theta} (y_{t-1}, y_t, y_{t+1}, u_t \mid \Omega_t) \right] = 0$$

$$E_t \left[f(y_{t-1}, y_t, y_{t+1}, u_t) \right] = 0$$

Perturbation approach

General idea

Step 1: Introduce perturbation parameter

- ▶ scale u_t by a parameter $\sigma \geq 0$: $u_t = \sigma \varepsilon_t$ with $\varepsilon_t \sim WN(0, \Sigma_\varepsilon)$
- ▶ note that this implies $\Sigma_u = \sigma^2 \Sigma_\varepsilon$
- ▶ σ is called the *perturbation parameter*
 - ▶ non-stochastic, i.e. static model: $\sigma = 0$
 - ▶ stochastic, i.e. dynamic model: $\sigma > 0$

General idea

Step 2: *define* dynamic solution

- ▶ invariant mapping between y_t and (y_{t-1}, u_t) :

$$y_t = g(y_{t-1}, u_t, \sigma)$$

- ▶ $g(\cdot)$ is called the *policy-function* or *decision rule*
- ▶ $g(\cdot)$ is unknown, i.e. we need to solve a *functional equation*

General idea

Idea: Maybe we can get g from $E_t \left[f(y_{t-1}, y_t, y_{t+1}, u_t) \right] = 0$?

From the policy function we can define

- ▶ $y_t = g(y_{t-1}, u_t, \sigma)$

- ▶ $y_{t+1} = g(y_t, u_{t+1}, \sigma) = g(g(y_{t-1}, u_t, \sigma), u_{t+1}, \sigma)$

General idea

Rewrite dynamic model:

$$f\left(y_{t-1}, y_t, y_{t+1}, u_t\right)$$
$$= f\left(y_{t-1}, g(y_{t-1}, u_t, \sigma), g(g(y_{t-1}, u_t, \sigma), u_{t+1}, \sigma), u_t\right)$$
$$\equiv F(y_{t-1}, u_t, u_{t+1}, \sigma)$$

General idea

Perturbation is based on the *implicit function theorem*:

$$E_t F(y_{t-1}, u_t, u_{t+1}, \sigma) = 0 \quad [\text{known}]$$

implicitly defines

$$g(y_{t-1}, u_t, \sigma) \quad [\text{unknown}]$$

General idea

We know how to solve for the non-stochastic ($\sigma = 0$) steady-state \bar{y} by solving the *static* model:

$$\bar{f}(\bar{y}) \equiv f(\bar{y}, \bar{y}, \bar{y}, 0) = F(\bar{y}, 0, 0, 0) = 0$$

which provides us with the non-stochastic steady-state for \bar{y}

Even though we do not know $g(\cdot)$ explicitly, we do know its value at \bar{y} :

$$\bar{y} = g(\bar{y}, 0, 0)$$

Taylor approximation of g

$$y_t = g(y_{t-1}, u_t, \sigma)$$

Let's approximate $g(\cdot)$ around \bar{y} with a 1st order Taylor expansion:

$$y_t \approx \bar{y} + \left[\frac{\partial g(\bar{y}, 0, 0)}{\partial y'_{t-1}} \right] (y_{t-1} - \bar{y}) + \left[\frac{\partial g(\bar{y}, 0, 0)}{\partial u'_t} \right] (u_t - 0) + \left[\frac{\partial g(\bar{y}, 0, 0)}{\partial \sigma} \right] (\sigma - 0)$$

Some progress: instead of an infinite unknown number of parameters for g , we have now only three unknown matrices

Taylor approximation of g

But: how do we obtain these?

➔ Let's approximate $F(\cdot)$ around \bar{y} with a 1st order Taylor expansion!

More Notation

$$u := u_t, u_+ := u_{t+1}$$

$$y_- := y_{t-1}, y_0 := y_t, y_+ := y_{t+1}$$

$$r := \begin{pmatrix} y_- \\ u \\ u_+ \\ \sigma \end{pmatrix} \quad z := \begin{pmatrix} y_- \\ y \\ y_+ \\ u \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} y_- \\ g(y_-, u, \sigma) \\ g(g(y_-, u, \sigma), u_+, \sigma) \\ u \end{pmatrix}$$

Notation Jacobian Matrices

$$g_y := \left[\frac{\partial g(\bar{y}, 0, 0)}{\partial y'_{t-1}} \right] \quad g_u := \left[\frac{\partial g(\bar{y}, 0, 0)}{\partial u'_t} \right] \quad g_\sigma := \left[\frac{\partial g(\bar{y}, 0, 0)}{\partial \sigma} \right] \quad [\text{unknown}]$$

$$f_{y_-} := \left[\frac{\partial f(\bar{z})}{\partial y'_{t-1}} \right] \quad f_{y_0} := \left[\frac{\partial f(\bar{z})}{\partial y'_t} \right] \quad f_{y_+} := \left[\frac{\partial f(\bar{z})}{\partial y'_{t+1}} \right] \quad f_u := \left[\frac{\partial f(\bar{z})}{\partial u'_t} \right] \quad [\text{known}]$$

$$F_y := \left[\frac{\partial F(\bar{r})}{\partial y'_{t-1}} \right] \quad F_u := \left[\frac{\partial F(\bar{r})}{\partial u'_t} \right] \quad F_{u_+} := \left[\frac{\partial F(\bar{r})}{\partial u'_{t+1}} \right] \quad F_\sigma := \left[\frac{\partial F(\bar{r})}{\partial \sigma} \right] \quad [\text{implicit}]$$

All derivatives are evaluated at the non-stochastic steady-state

Taylor approximation of F

Let's approximate $F(r) = F(y_{t-1}, u_t, u_{t+1}, \sigma)$ around \bar{r} at 1st order:

$$F(r) \approx F(\bar{r}) + F_y \hat{y}_- + F_u \hat{u} + F_{u_+} \hat{u}_+ + F_\sigma \hat{\sigma}$$

with $\hat{y} = (y_- - \bar{y})$, $\hat{u} = (u - 0) = u$, $\hat{u}_+ = (u_+ - 0) = \sigma \varepsilon_+$, $\hat{\sigma} = (\sigma - 0) = \sigma$

Taylor approximation of F

Our model implies that $E_t F(r) = 0$, so let's use this on the first-order approximation:

$$0 = E_t F(r) \approx 0 + F_y \hat{y}_- + F_u u + F_{u_+} E_t \sigma \varepsilon_+ + F_\sigma \sigma$$

$$0 \approx F_y \hat{y}_- + F_u u + \left(F_\sigma + F_{u_+} E_t \varepsilon_+ \right) \sigma$$

Insight: this equation needs to be satisfied for any value of \hat{y}_- , u and σ ; hence:

$$F_y = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad F_u = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad F_\sigma + F_{u_+} E_t \varepsilon_+ = 0$$

Taylor approximation of F

We have 3 (multivariate) equations:

$$F_y = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad F_u = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad F_\sigma + F_{u_+} E_t \varepsilon_+ = 0$$

to recover three unknown matrices

▶ g_y from $F_y = 0$

▶ g_u from $F_u = 0$

▶ g_σ from $F_\sigma + F_{u_+} E_t \varepsilon_+ = 0$

Recovering g_σ

Recovering g_σ

$$F = f \left(\underbrace{y_-}_{y_0}, \underbrace{g(y_-, u, \sigma)}_{y_+}, \underbrace{g(\overbrace{g(y_-, u, \sigma)}^{y_0}, u_+, \sigma)}_{y_+}, u \right)$$

First order derivative with respect to σ yields:

$$F_\sigma = f_{y_0} g_\sigma + f_{y_+} (g_y g_\sigma + g_\sigma)$$

First order derivative with respect to u_+ yields:

$$F_{u_+} = f_{y_+} g_u$$

Recovering g_σ

$$f_{y_0} g_\sigma + f_{y_+} (g_x g_\sigma + g_\sigma) + f_{y_+} g_u E_t \varepsilon_+ = 0$$

$$\Leftrightarrow g_\sigma = - \left(f_{y_0} + f_{y_+} g_x + f_{y_+} \right)^{-1} f_{y_+} g_u E_t \varepsilon_+$$

Of course, we know that $E_t \varepsilon_{t+1} = 0$, which implies:

$$g_\sigma = 0$$

Certainty Equivalence $g_\sigma = 0$

When we derived the optimality conditions (aka model equations) agents do take into account the effect of future uncertainty when optimizing

BUT: the policy function is independent of the size of the stochastic innovations:

$$\hat{y}_t = g_y \hat{y}_{t-1} + g_u u_t + 0 \cdot \sigma$$

Future uncertainty does not matter for the decision rules of the agents!

Certainty equivalence is a result of the first-order perturbation approximation, we can break it with e.g. higher-order perturbation approximation

Recovering g_u

Recovering g_u

$$F = f \left(\underbrace{y_-}_{y_0}, \underbrace{g(y_-, u, \sigma)}_{y_+}, \underbrace{g(\overbrace{g(y_-, u, \sigma)}^{y_0}, u_+, \sigma)}_{y_+}, u \right)$$

First order derivative with respect to u yields:

$$F_u = f_{y_0} g_u + f_{y_+} g_y g_u + f_u$$

$$F_u = 0 \text{ implies: } g_u = - \left(f_{y_0} + f_{y_+} g_y \right)^{-1} f_u$$

Recovering g_u

$$g_u = - \left(f_{y_0} + f_{y_+} g_y \right)^{-1} f_u$$

This is a linear equation which requires computing an inverse involving g_y

Therefore: once we know g_y , we can easily compute g_u .

Recovering g_y

Recovering g_y

$$F = f \left(\underbrace{y_-}_{y_0}, \underbrace{g(y_-, u, \sigma)}_{y_+}, \underbrace{g(\overbrace{g(y_-, u, \sigma)}^{y_0}, u_+, \sigma)}_{y_+}, u \right)$$

First order derivative with respect to y_- and setting it to zero yields:

$$F_y = f_{y_-} + f_{y_0} g_y + f_{y_+} g_y g_y \stackrel{!}{=} 0$$

This is a *quadratic equation*, but the unknown g_y is a matrix!

It is generally impossible to solve this equation analytically, but there are several ways to deal with this as this boils down to solving so-called *Linear Rational Expectations Models*

Linear Rational Expectations Model

Re-consider original dynamic model:

$$E_t f(y_{t-1}, y_t, y_{t+1}, u_t) = 0$$

Take first-order Taylor expansion:

$$f_{y_-} \hat{y}_{t-1} + f_{y_0} \hat{y}_t + f_{y_+} E_t \hat{y}_{t+1} + f_u u_t = 0$$

In the literature this is known as a *Linear Rational Expectations Model*

Linear Rational Expectations Model

$$f_{y_-} \hat{y}_{t-1} + f_{y_0} \hat{y}_t + f_{y_+} E_t \hat{y}_{t+1} + f_u u_t = 0$$

Using the first-order policy function:

$$\hat{y}_t = g_y \hat{y}_{t-1} + g_u u_t$$

$$E_t \hat{y}_{t+1} = g_y \hat{y}_t + g_u E_t u_{t+1} = g_y (g_y \hat{y}_{t-1} + g_u u_t) = g_y g_y \hat{y}_{t-1} + g_y g_u u_t$$

Rewriting the above equation we see the connection to perturbation:

$$\underbrace{(f_{y_-} + f_{y_0} g_y + f_{y_+} g_y g_y)}_{F_y=0} \hat{y}_{t-1} = - \underbrace{(f_{y_0} g_u + f_{y_+} g_y g_u + f_u)}_{F_u=0} u_t = 0$$

Structural State-Space System

$$f_{y_-} \hat{y}_{t-1} + f_{y_0} \hat{y}_t + f_{y_+} E_t \hat{y}_{t+1} + f_u u_t = 0$$

$$\underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} 0 & f_{y_+} \\ I & 0 \end{pmatrix}}_{:=D} \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} \hat{y}_t \\ E_t \hat{y}_{t+1} \end{pmatrix}}_{:=Y_t} = \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} -f_{y_-} & -f_{y_0} \\ 0 & I \end{pmatrix}}_{:=E} \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} \hat{y}_{t-1} \\ \hat{y}_t \end{pmatrix}}_{:=Y_{t-1}} + \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} -f_u \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}}_{U_t} u_t$$

$$D \cdot Y_t = E \cdot Y_{t-1} + U_t$$

D and E are by construction square matrices

Stability

$$D \cdot Y_t = E \cdot Y_{t-1} + U_t$$

IF D is invertible, then:

$$Y_t = (D^{-1}E)Y_{t-1} + D^{-1}U_t$$

$$= (D^{-1}E)^0 D^{-1}U_t + (D^{-1}E)^1 D^{-1}U_{t-1} + (D^{-1}E)^2 D^{-1}U_{t-2} + (D^{-1}E)^3 D^{-1}U_{t-3} + \dots$$

Stable solution if and only if all Eigenvalues λ_i of $(D^{-1}E)$ are inside unit circle

Stability

REMINDER: Eigenvalue λ_i and corresponding eigenvector v_i of $(D^{-1}E)$ satisfy:

$$\lambda_i v_i = (D^{-1}E)v_i$$

BUT: D is typically singular and non-invertible!

THEREFORE: use Generalized Eigenvalues λ_i that satisfy:

$$\lambda_i D v_i = E v_i$$

SAME IDEA: stability only for $|\lambda_i| < 1$ (inside unit circle)

MATLAB: $\text{Lambda} = \text{eig}(E,D)$

Generalized Schur Decomposition

Eigenvalue is defined via a zero determinant of matrix pencil: $\det(D + \lambda E) = 0$

So instead of inverse we'll use a Schur decomposition on matrix pencil:

$$D = Q'TZ' \quad \text{and} \quad E = Q'SZ'$$

Q is orthogonal: $Q' = Q^{-1}$ and $Q'Q = QQ' = I$

Z is orthogonal: $Z' = Z^{-1}$ and $Z'Z = ZZ' = I$

T is upper triangular and S is quasi-upper triangular

MATLAB: $[S,T,Q,Z] = qz(E,D)$

Generalized Eigenvalues

Stability: look at *Generalized Eigenvalues* of D and E :

$$\lambda_i D v_i = E v_i$$

which can be found on the diagonal of S and T : $\lambda_i = \frac{S_{ii}}{T_{ii}}$

If $T_{ii} = 0$, then: $S_{ii} > 0 \rightarrow \lambda_i = \infty$ and $S_{ii} < 0 \rightarrow \lambda_i = -\infty$

Structural State-Space System

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & f_{y_+} \\ I & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \hat{y}_t \\ E_t \hat{y}_{t+1} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -f_{y_-} & -f_{y_0} \\ 0 & I \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \hat{y}_{t-1} \\ \hat{y}_t \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} -f_u \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} u_t$$

Insert the policy functions:

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & f_{y_+} \\ I & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} g_y \hat{y}_{t-1} + g_u u_t \\ g_y (g_y \hat{y}_{t-1} + g_u u_t) + g_u \underbrace{E_t u_{t+1}}_{=0} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -f_{y_-} & -f_{y_0} \\ 0 & I \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \hat{y}_{t-1} \\ g_y \hat{y}_{t-1} + g_u u_t \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} -f_u u_t \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & f_{y_+} \\ I & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} I \\ g_y \end{pmatrix} g_y \hat{y}_{t-1} = \begin{pmatrix} -f_{y_-} & -f_{y_0} \\ 0 & I \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} I \\ g_y \end{pmatrix} \hat{y}_{t-1} + \begin{pmatrix} -f_{y_+} g_y g_u \\ -g_u \end{pmatrix} u_t + \begin{pmatrix} -f_{y_0} g_u \\ g_u \end{pmatrix} u_t + \begin{pmatrix} -f_u \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} u_t$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & f_{y_+} \\ I & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} I \\ g_y \end{pmatrix} g_y \hat{y}_{t-1} = \begin{pmatrix} -f_{y_-} & -f_{y_0} \\ 0 & I \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} I \\ g_y \end{pmatrix} \hat{y}_{t-1} + \begin{pmatrix} -F_u \\ -g_u + g_u \end{pmatrix} u_t$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & f_{y_+} \\ I & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} I \\ g_y \end{pmatrix} g_y \hat{y}_{t-1} = \begin{pmatrix} -f_{y_-} & -f_{y_0} \\ 0 & I \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} I \\ g_y \end{pmatrix} \hat{y}_{t-1}$$

Schur Decomposition on Structural State-Space System

$$\underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} 0 & f_{y_+} \\ I & 0 \end{pmatrix}}_D \begin{pmatrix} I \\ g_y \end{pmatrix} g_y \hat{y}_{t-1} = \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} -f_{y_-} & -f_{y_0} \\ 0 & I \end{pmatrix}}_E \begin{pmatrix} I \\ g_y \end{pmatrix} \hat{y}_{t-1}$$
$$Q'TZ' \begin{pmatrix} I \\ g_y \end{pmatrix} g_y \hat{y}_{t-1} = Q'SZ' \begin{pmatrix} I \\ g_y \end{pmatrix} \hat{y}_{t-1}$$

Multiply by Q :

$$TZ' \begin{pmatrix} I \\ g_y \end{pmatrix} g_y \hat{y}_{t-1} = SZ' \begin{pmatrix} I \\ g_y \end{pmatrix} \hat{y}_{t-1}$$

Re-ordering of Schur decomposition

$$TZ' \begin{pmatrix} I \\ g_y \end{pmatrix} g_y \hat{y}_{t-1} = SZ' \begin{pmatrix} I \\ g_y \end{pmatrix} \hat{y}_{t-1}$$

Order stable Generalized Eigenvalues $|\lambda_i| < 1$ in the upper left corner of T and S :

$$\begin{pmatrix} T_{11} & T_{12} \\ 0 & T_{22} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} Z'_{11} & Z'_{21} \\ Z'_{12} & Z'_{22} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} I \\ g_y \end{pmatrix} g_y \hat{y}_{t-1} = \begin{pmatrix} S_{11} & S_{12} \\ 0 & S_{22} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} Z'_{11} & Z'_{21} \\ Z'_{12} & Z'_{22} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} I \\ g_y \end{pmatrix} \hat{y}_{t-1}$$

T_{11} and S_{11} are square matrices and contain stable Generalized Eigenvalues

T_{22} and S_{22} are square matrices and contain unstable Generalized Eigenvalues

Impose Stability

$$\begin{pmatrix} T_{11} & T_{12} \\ \mathbf{0} & T_{22} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} Z'_{11} & Z'_{21} \\ Z'_{12} & Z'_{22} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} I \\ g_y \end{pmatrix} g_y \hat{y}_{t-1} = \begin{pmatrix} S_{11} & S_{12} \\ \mathbf{0} & S_{22} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} Z'_{11} & Z'_{21} \\ Z'_{12} & Z'_{22} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} I \\ g_y \end{pmatrix} \hat{y}_{t-1}$$

We *DON'T WANT* an explosive solution, so we rule this out by **imposing**:

$$\begin{pmatrix} Z'_{11} & Z'_{21} \\ Z'_{12} & Z'_{22} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} I \\ g_y \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{XXX} \\ \mathbf{0} \end{pmatrix}$$

such that the lower (explosive) rows are always zero:

$$\mathbf{0} \cdot \mathbf{XXX} + T_{22} \cdot \mathbf{0} = \mathbf{0} \cdot \mathbf{XXX} + S_{22} \cdot \mathbf{0} = \mathbf{0}$$

Impose Stability

$$Z' \begin{pmatrix} I \\ g_y \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} XXX \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

Pre-multiply by Z :

$$\underbrace{ZZ'}_I \begin{pmatrix} I \\ g_y \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} Z_{11} & Z_{12} \\ Z_{21} & Z_{22} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} XXX \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

Focusing on the upper rows we get:

$$Z_{11} \cdot XXX + Z_{12} \cdot 0 = I \Leftrightarrow XXX = (Z_{11})^{-1}$$

Recovering g_y

$$\begin{pmatrix} Z'_{11} & Z'_{21} \\ Z'_{12} & Z'_{22} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} I \\ g_y \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} (Z_{11})^{-1} \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

From the lower rows we can recover g_y :

$$Z'_{12} \cdot I + Z'_{22} \cdot g_y = 0$$

$$g_y = - (Z'_{22})^{-1} Z'_{12}$$

Blanchard & Khan (1980) conditions

1. Order condition: Squareness of Z_{22}
2. Rank condition: Invertibility of Z_{22} , i.e. full rank of Z_{22}

Summary

Summary

Policy function / decision rule:

$$y_t = \bar{y} + g_y(y_{t-1} - \bar{y}) + g_u u_t$$

Algorithm:

1. create D and E matrices
2. do a QZ/Schur decomposition with re-ordering
3. $g_y = - (Z'_{22})^{-1} Z'_{12}$
4. $g_u = - (f_{y_0} + f_{y_+} g_y)^{-1} f_u$

Summary

g_y is a $n \times n$ matrix

- only columns wrt state (predetermined and mixed) variables are nonzero; Dynare's *oo_.dr.ghx* focuses only on states
- rows are in declaration order; rows in Dynare's *oo_.dr.ghx* are in DR order

g_u is a $n \times n_u$ matrix

- rows are in declaration order; rows in Dynare's *oo_.dr.ghu* are in DR order

Illustration:

`perturbation_solver_LRE.m`